

ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN®

ISSUE

79

WARRIORS: PART 1



BENDIS
BAGLEY
HANNA

MARVEL®

Isanove
ISANOVE

PREVIOUSLY

ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN



The bite of a genetically altered spider granted high school student Peter Parker incredible, arachnid-like powers! When a burglar killed his beloved Uncle Ben, a grief-stricken Peter vowed to use his amazing abilities to protect his fellow man. He learned the invaluable lesson that with great power must also come great responsibility...

The past few weeks haven't been easy for Peter Parker. Tensions between Peter and his girlfriend Mary Jane come to a head when MJ is nearly killed during a battle between Spider-Man and the demonic villain, Hobgoblin. Realizing that his relationship with Mary Jane will always end up putting her in danger, Peter breaks up with her.

Meanwhile, New York City's underworld is in shambles. A government crackdown that forced Wilson Fisk—the Kingpin of Crime—to go into hiding has left his territory ripe for the taking. Rival mobsters, such as Allan Silvermane, are now faced with an unexpected opportunity: the chance to once and for all wrestle control of New York's mob away from the Kingpin. However, the Kingpin might not be as helpless as he appears...

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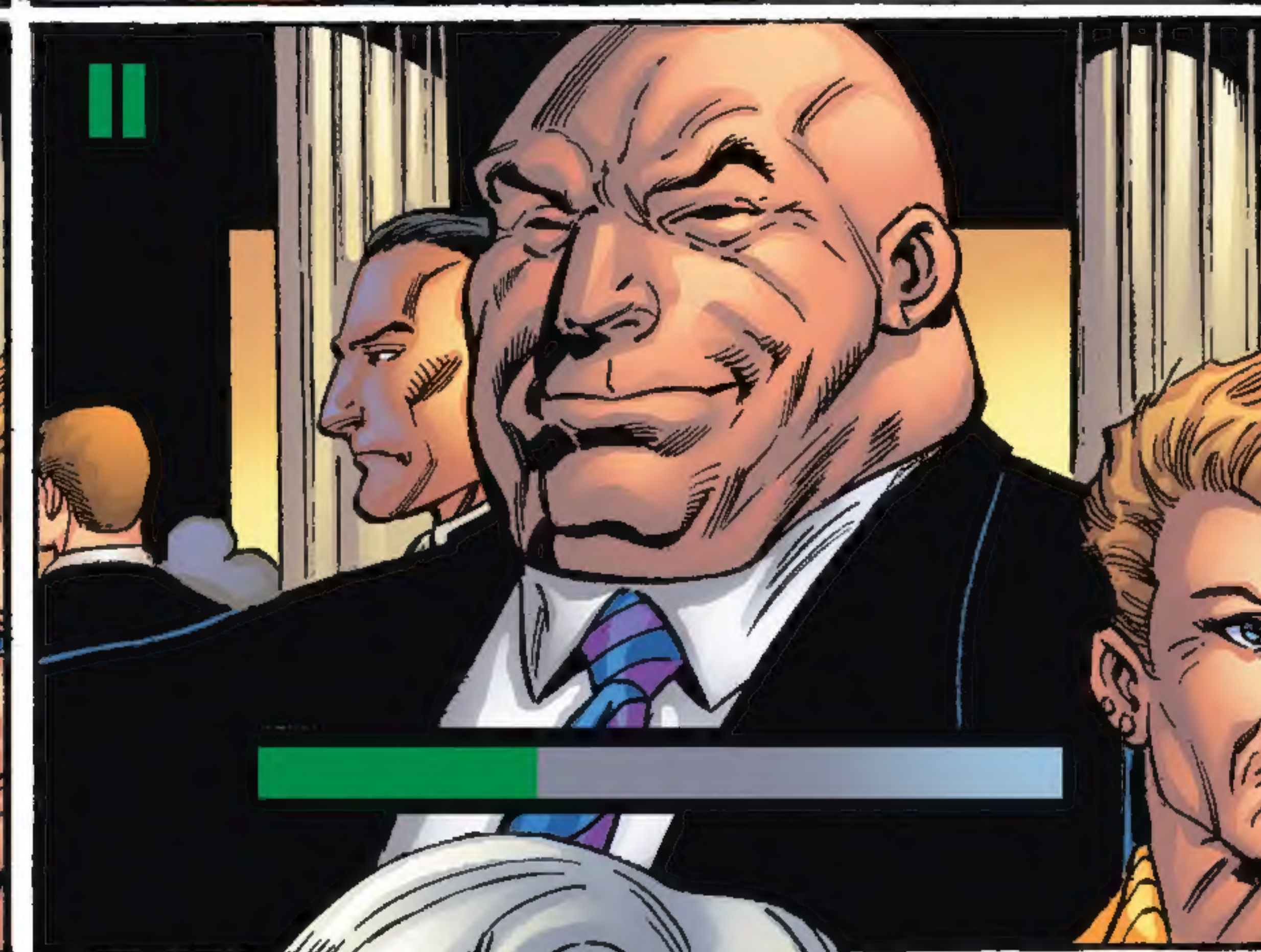
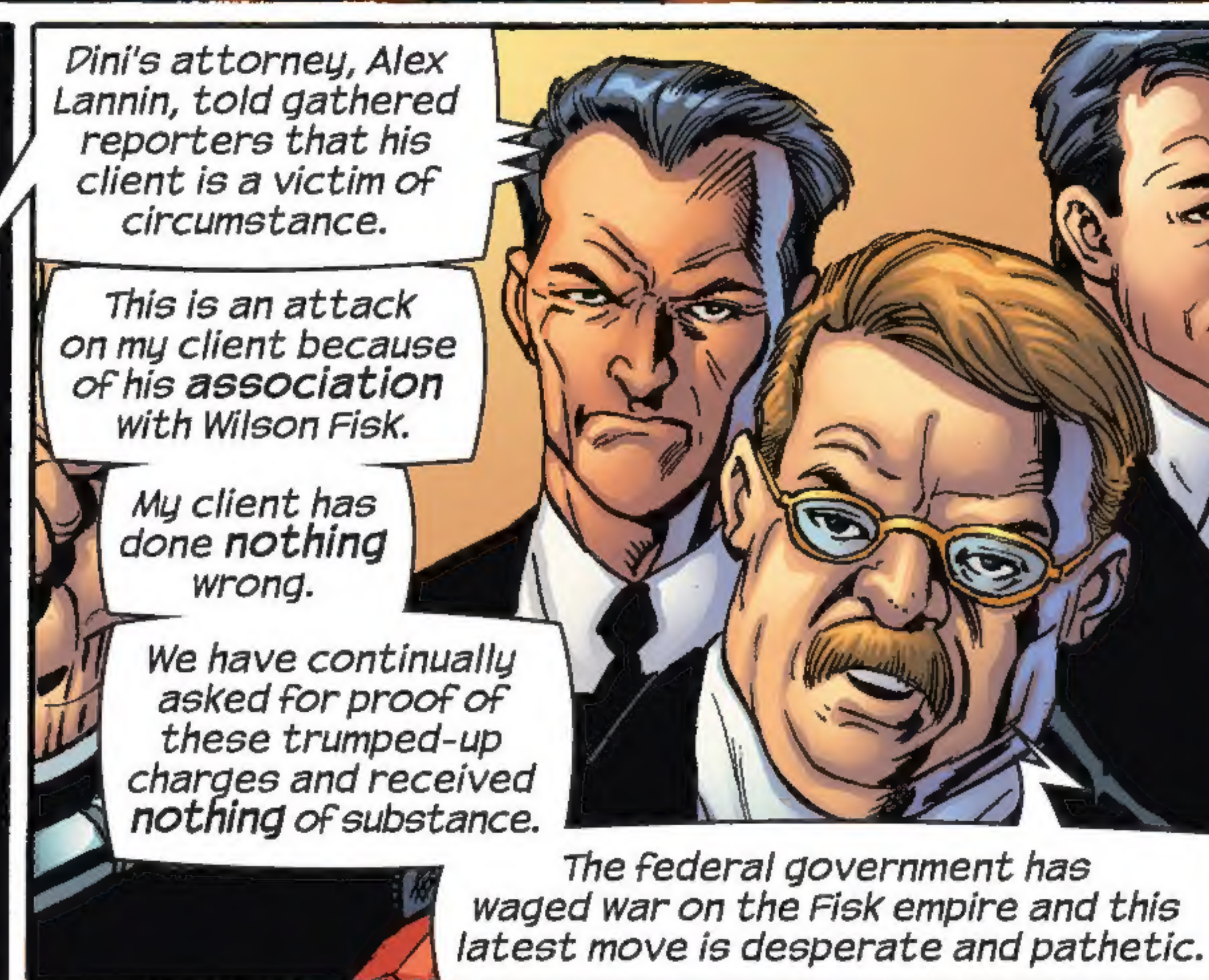
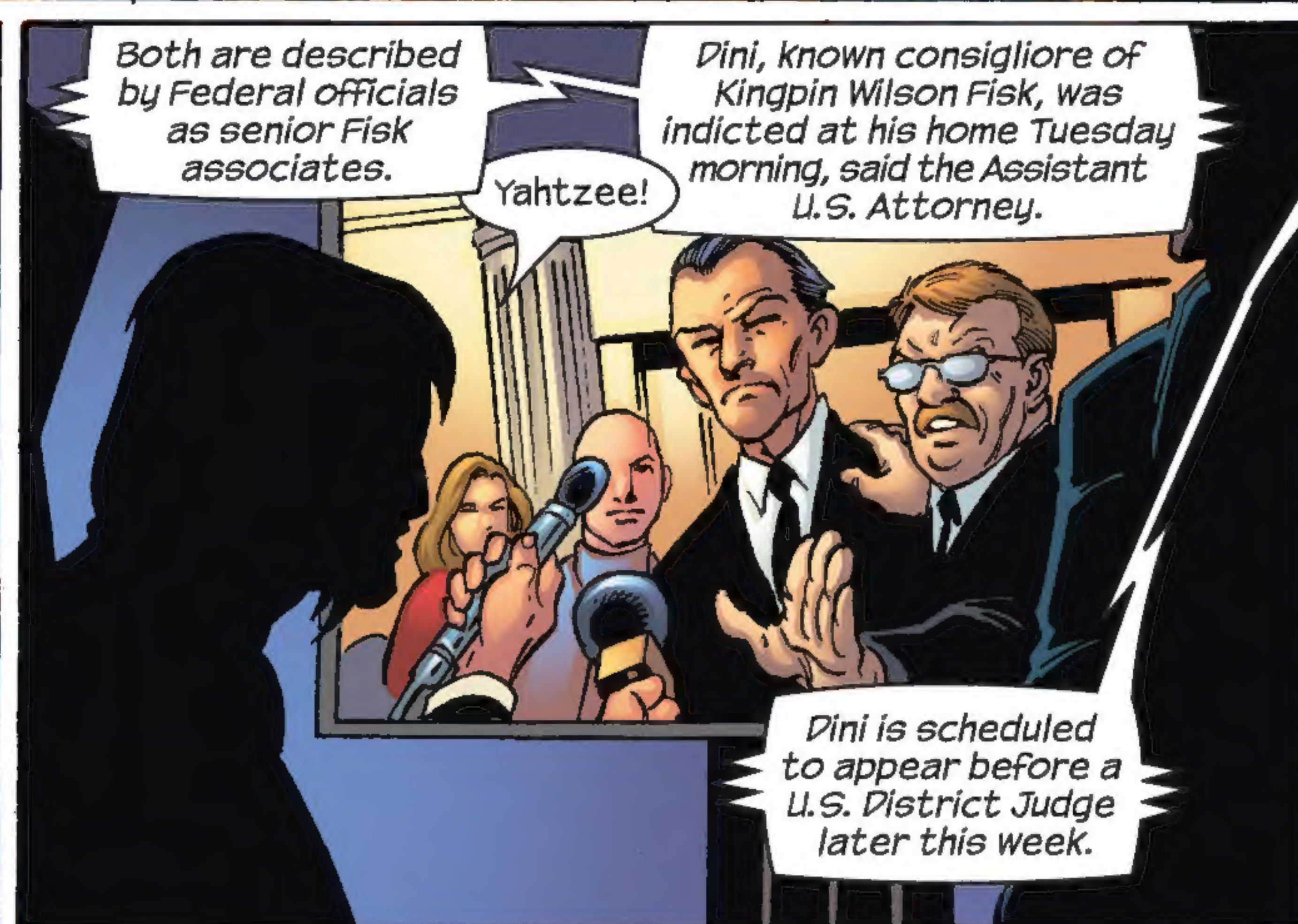
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Wilson Fisk has a kink in his chain-link fence.

Finally.

Yes.

Exactly.

It's all coming back to bite him in that *incredibly* fat tuchas of his.



So, my *thinking* is, with you back in town. The *timing* of it all...

Maybe it's time for you and me to, finally, you know, do this right?



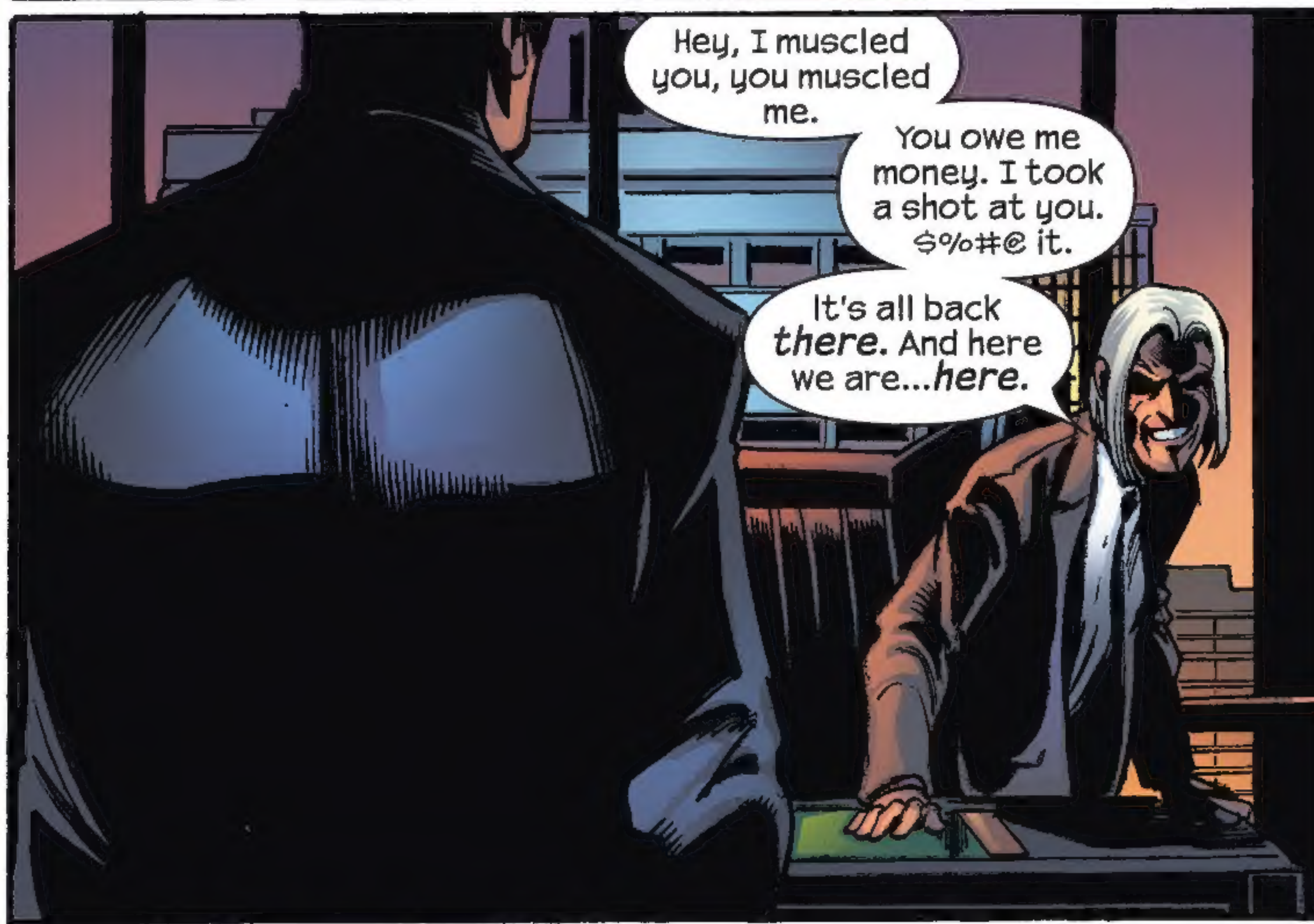
You want to work together.



It was going to happen eventually.



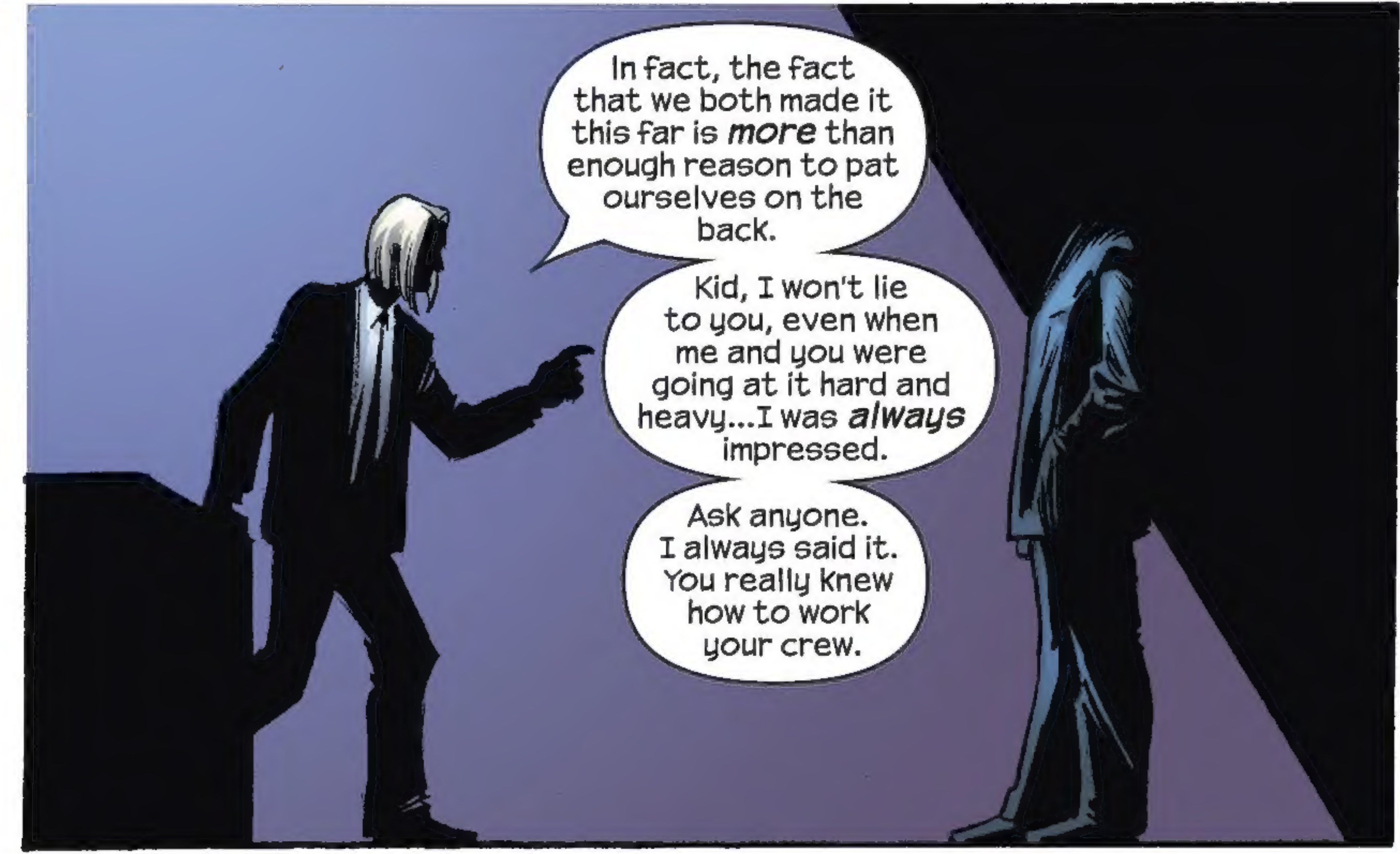
Really?



Hey, I muscled you, you muscled me.

You owe me money. I took a shot at you. \$%#@ it.

It's all back *there*. And here we are...*here*.



In fact, the fact that we both made it this far is *more* than enough reason to pat ourselves on the back.

Kid, I won't lie to you, even when me and you were going at it hard and heavy...I was *always* impressed.

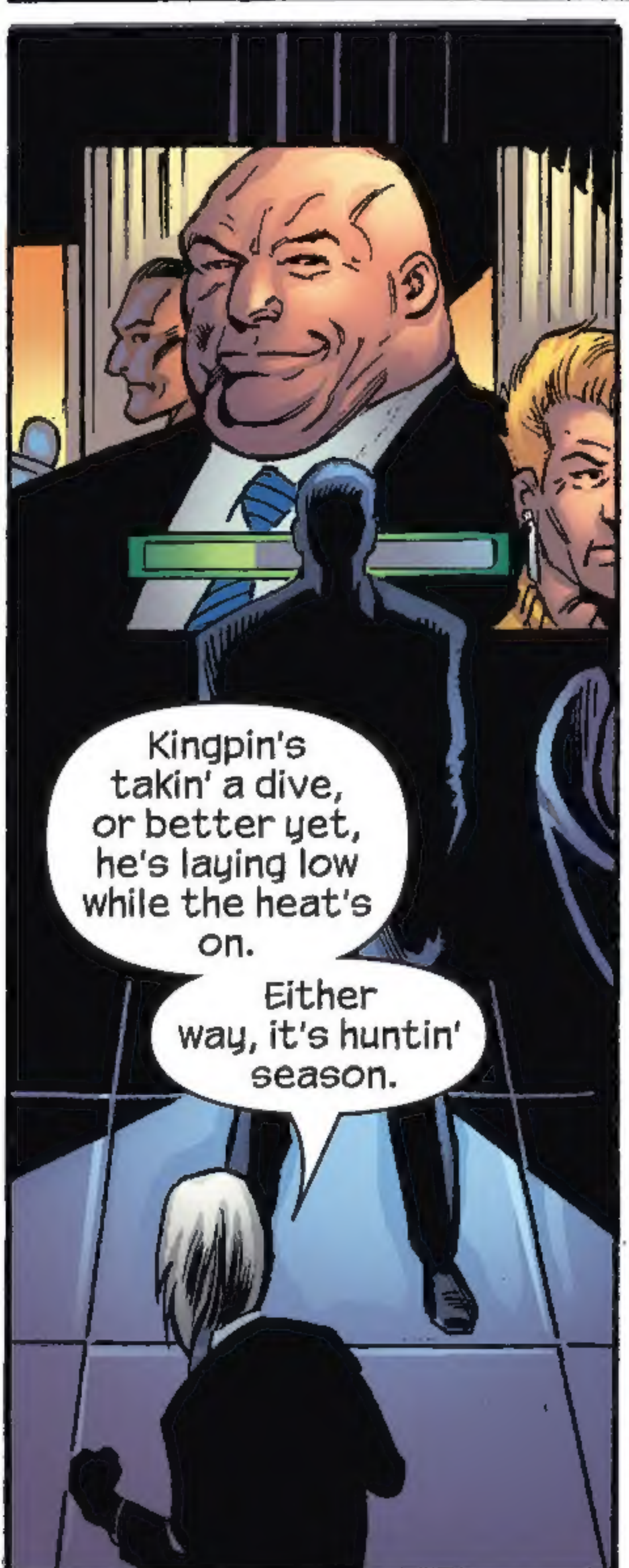
Ask anyone. I always said it. You really knew how to work your crew.



What you *needed* was- and I say this in all due respect- you needed what I have up here.

A little bit more of this and *you* could'a been Kingpin.

See what I'm saying?



Kingpin's takin' a dive, or better yet, he's laying low while the heat's on.

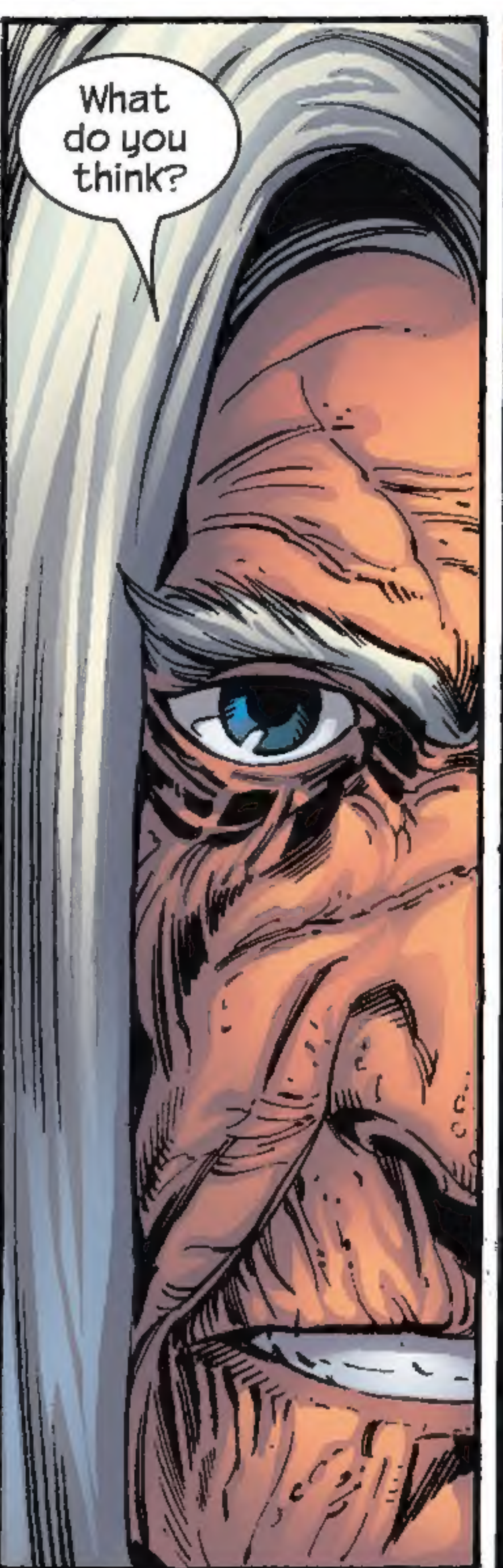
Either way, it's huntin' season.



So, huh?

Me and you.

Finally.



What do you think?



I like a lot of what you said.

A lot of it.

Except the one part.



Okay...





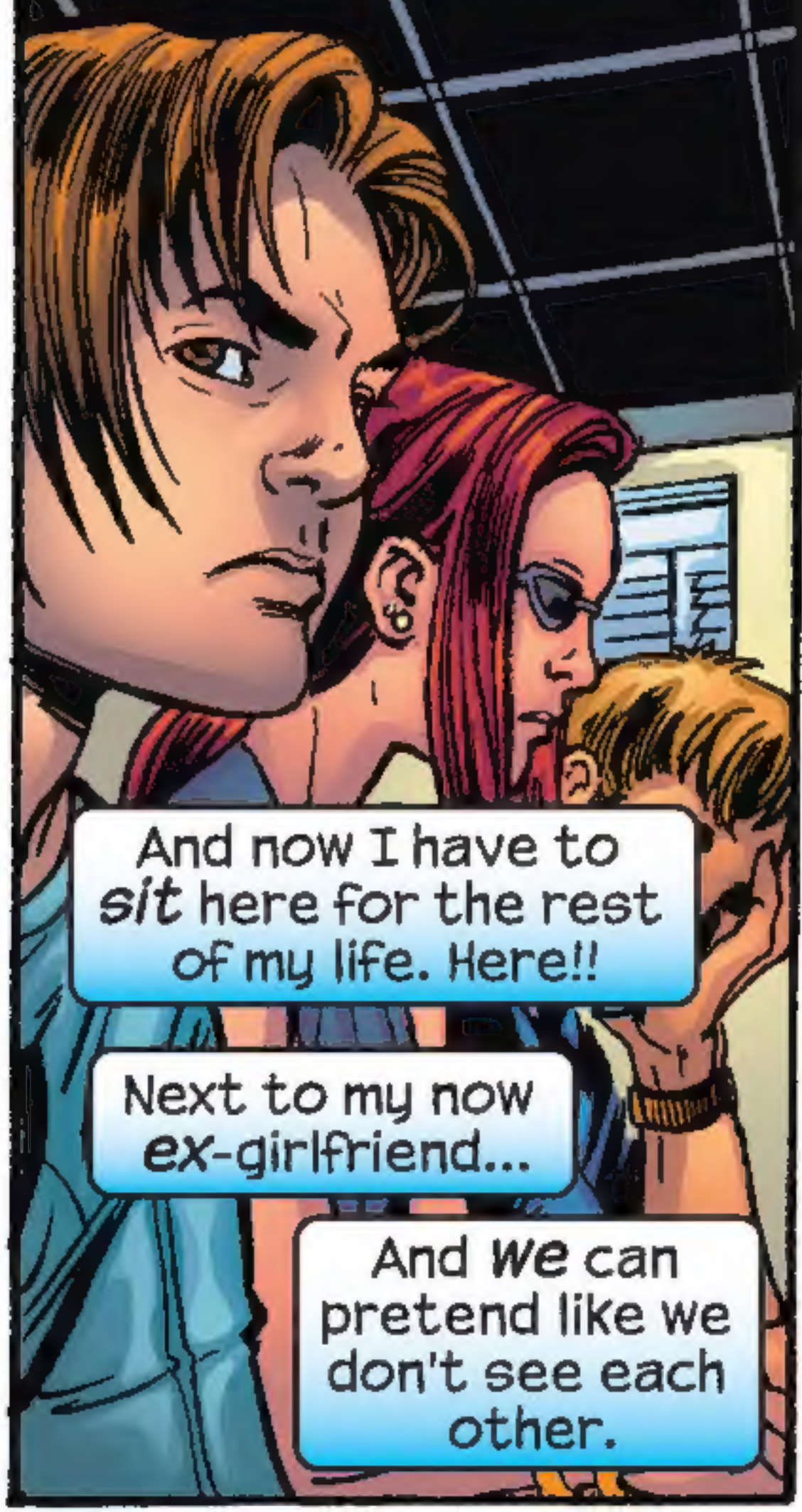
You had to watch a DVD!
A DVD!!

Your homework was to watch a DVD and *still* you did not do it!!

Shut up, idiot.

Teaching tenth grade on a sixth-grade level.

I'm bored out of my mind.



And now I have to *sit* here for the rest of my life. Here!!

Next to my now ex-girlfriend...

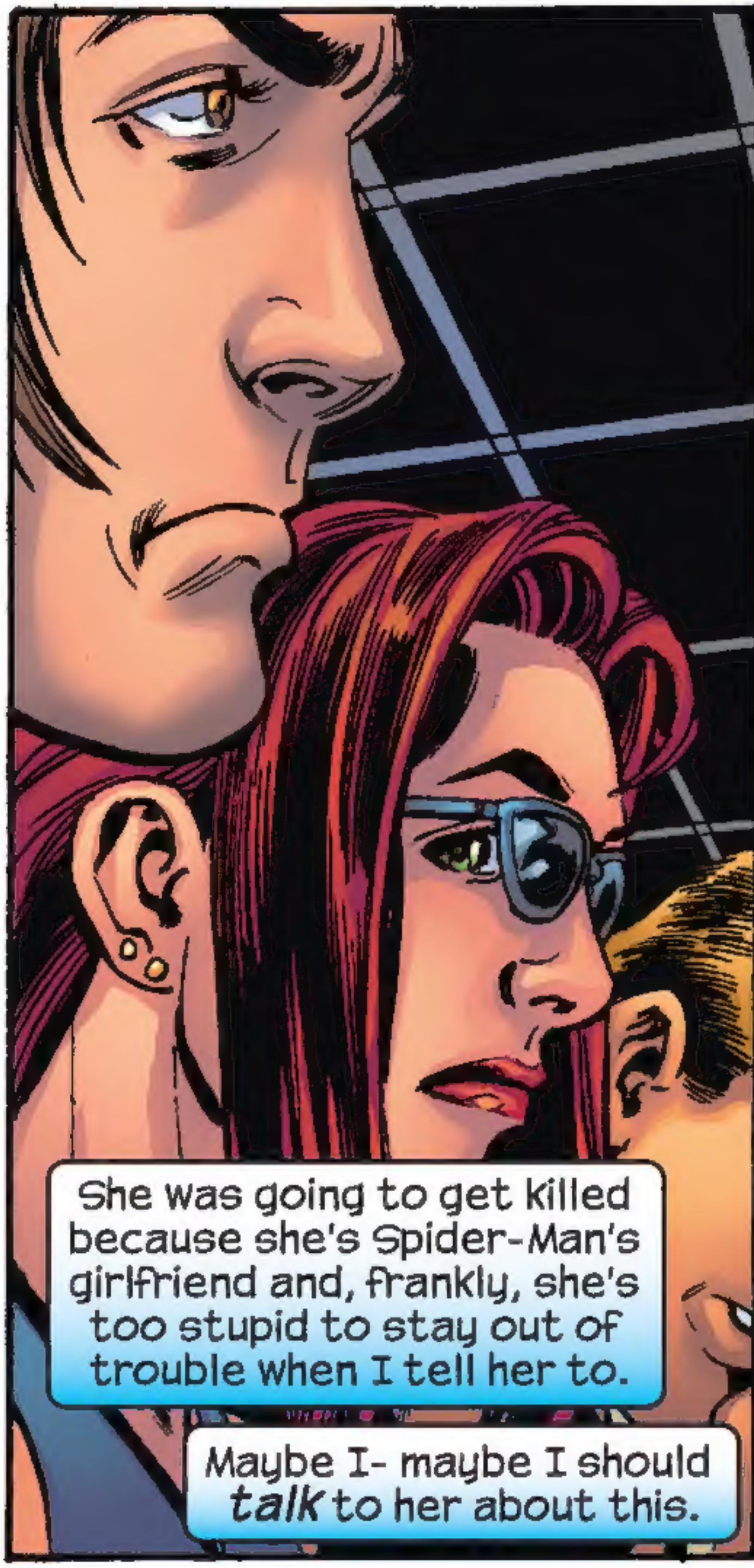
And *we* can pretend like we don't see each other.

I should change my seat.

I thought she'd change *her* seat. So I didn't.

(I can't believe I broke up with her.)

But what else was I supposed to do?



She was going to get killed because she's Spider-Man's girlfriend and, frankly, she's too stupid to stay out of trouble when I tell her to.

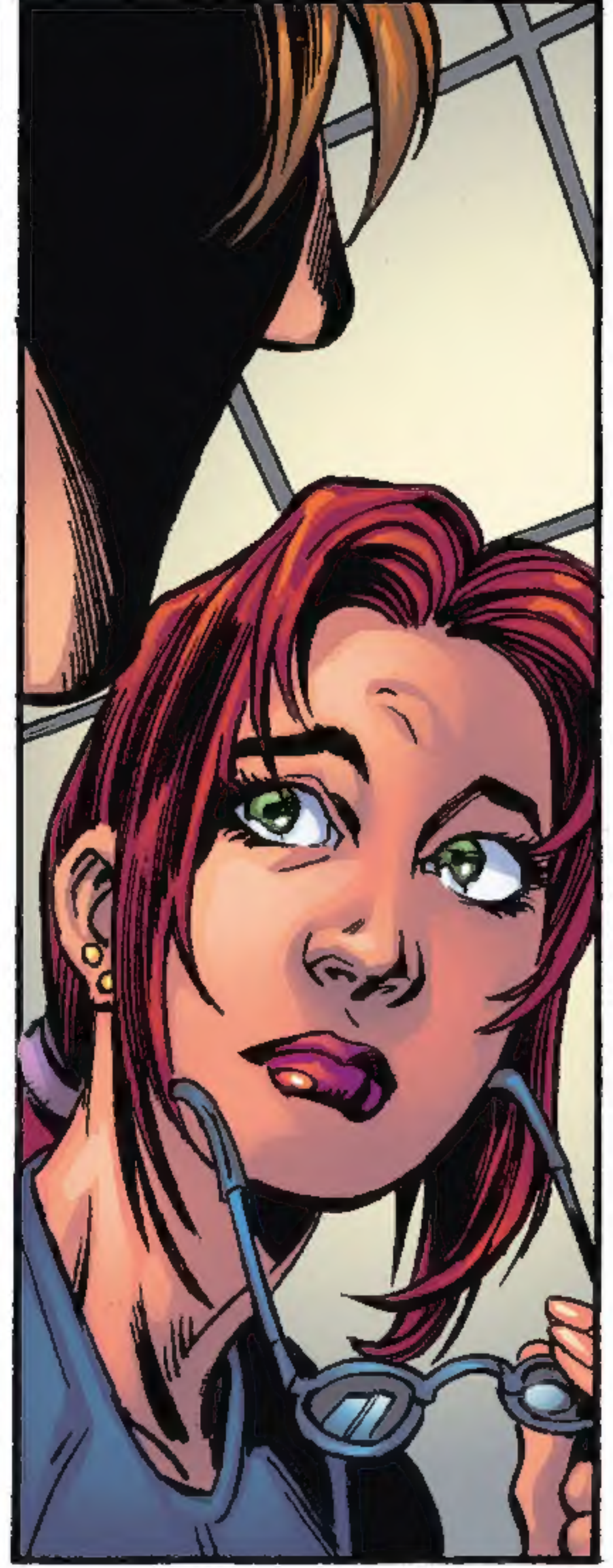
Maybe I- maybe I should *talk* to her about this.

Maybe in a couple of months she'll figure out how to be *smarter* about being with me and I won't have to- *no*.

No!! No.

She almost got killed six times out of the last twelve big Spider-Man adventures.

There is no *way* I am putting her in danger because I don't have anything to do on Friday nights.



No.

No. Leave her alone.

Just let her be happy.

I want her to be happy. And I want her to- I wish I could just lean over and tell her- I want her to be happy.



And alive.

Preferably more *alive* than happy.

So I break up with her, which had to be done, but now I have to sit next to her for- what year is it?



What am I? A sophomore. Tenth grade?

Almost done with tenth grade?

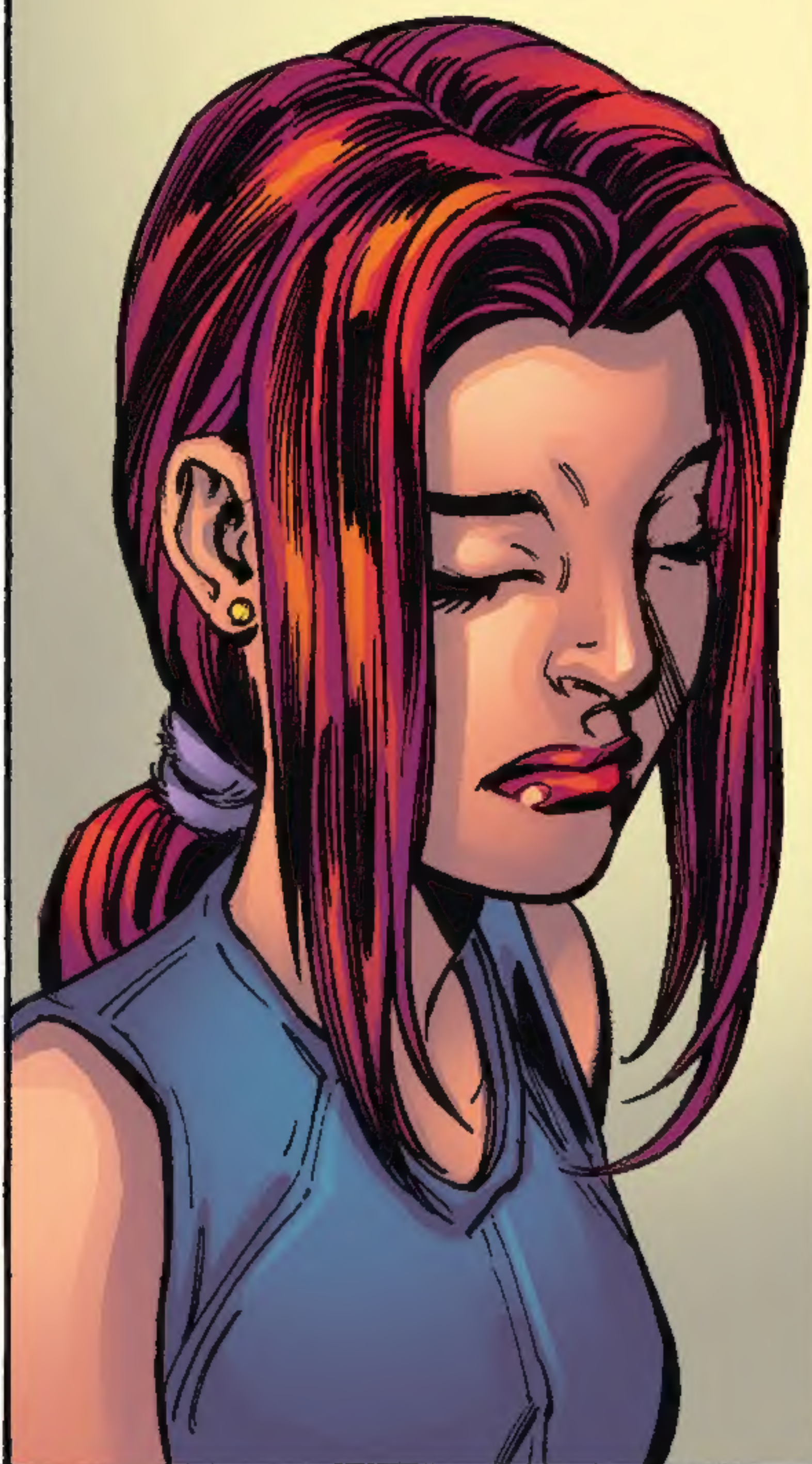
Well, that means I only have a couple of *years* left to sit and feel her not look at me as I don't look at her.



But of course, she'll probably end up dating someone new by next week!

Knowing *her*, someone stupid like Flash Thompson.

You know, to *show* me.



And then I have to pretend I'm not looking at them making out in the lunchroom.

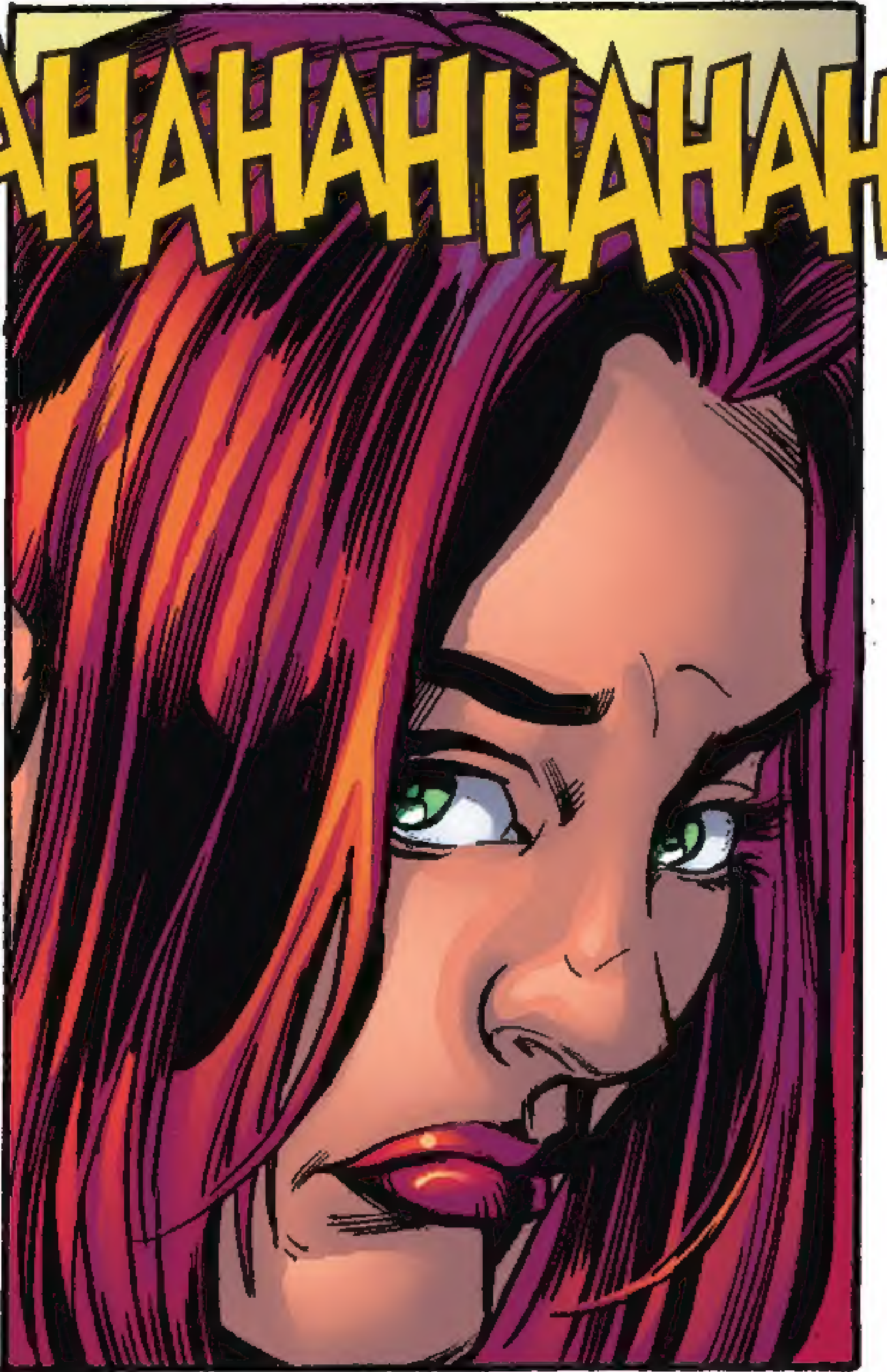
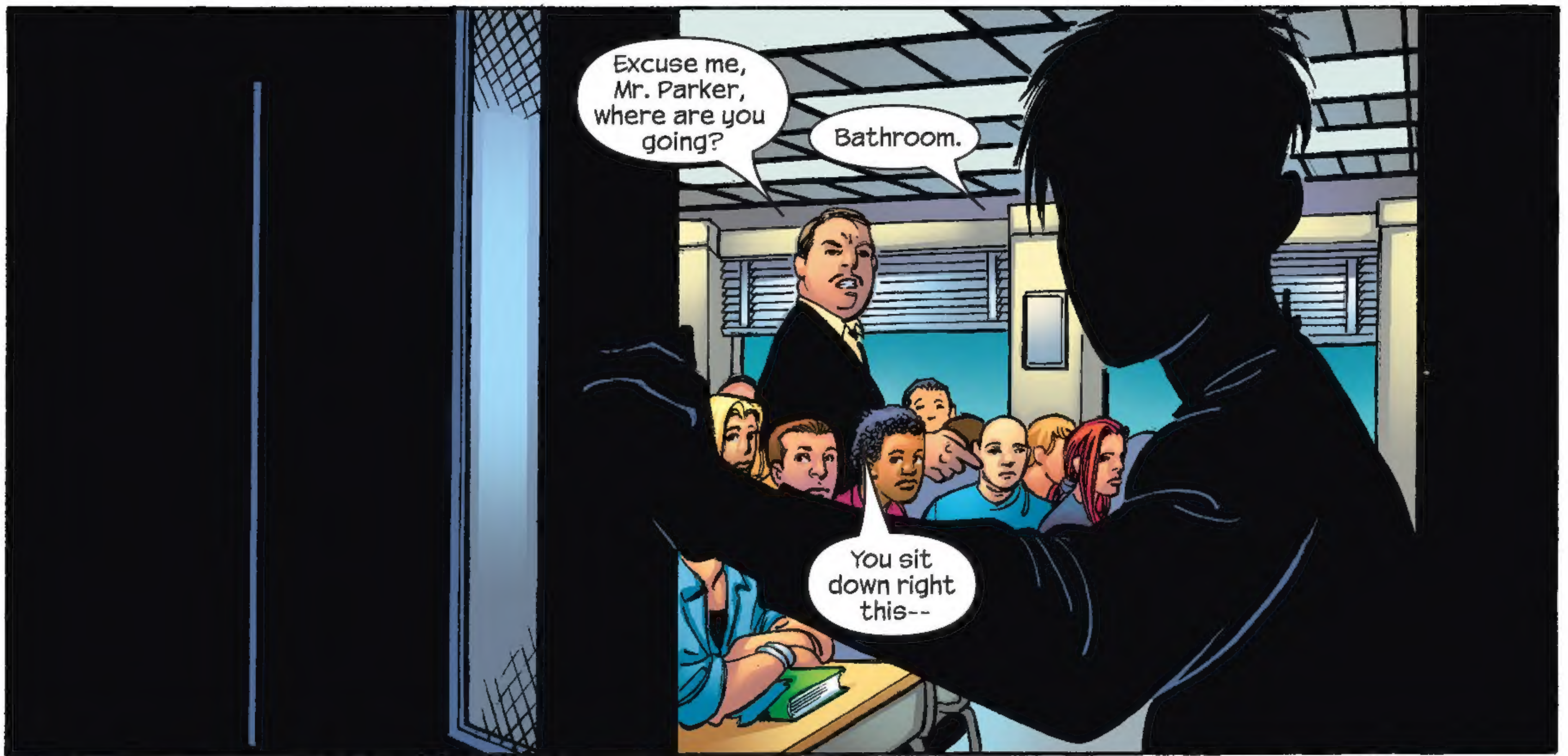
Oh, that'll be a treat.




So she'll be making out with Flash Thompson and I'll be *not* making out with anyone ever again because I *can't* have a girlfriend because I'm Spider-Man and with great power must come not making out with my girlfriend, ever again!!!

Oh, enough of this.





A large panel of a comic book showing Spider-Man in his iconic red and blue suit, hanging upside down from a thick metal pole. He is surrounded by a dense cityscape with tall buildings under a bright sun. Several speech bubbles are overlaid on the image.

"Spider-Man
no more."

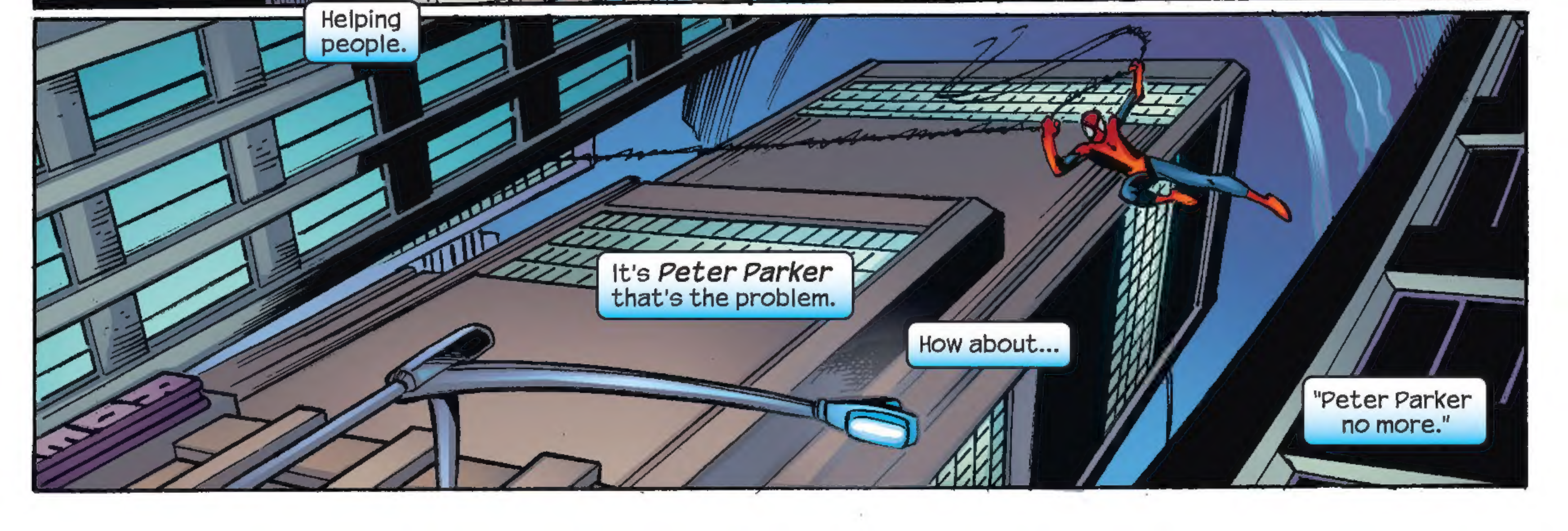
Why was I all,
like, "*Spider-Man*
no more?"

Spider-Man's not
the problem.

When I'm Spider-Man,
everything's fine.

I'm free. I'm
proactive. You
know...doing
stuff.

Helping
people.

A smaller panel at the bottom of the page showing Spider-Man swinging through a city. He is seen from a distance, swinging on a web between buildings. The perspective is from above, looking down at the city streets.

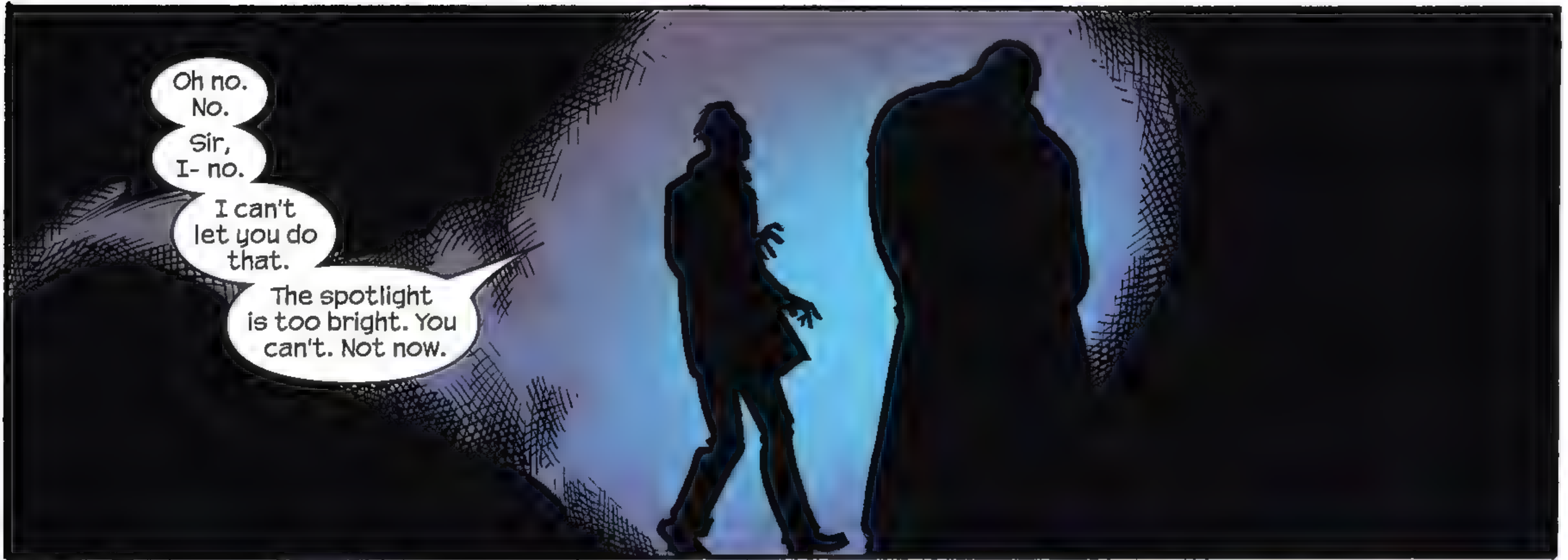
It's *Peter Parker*
that's the problem.

How about...

"Peter Parker
no more."







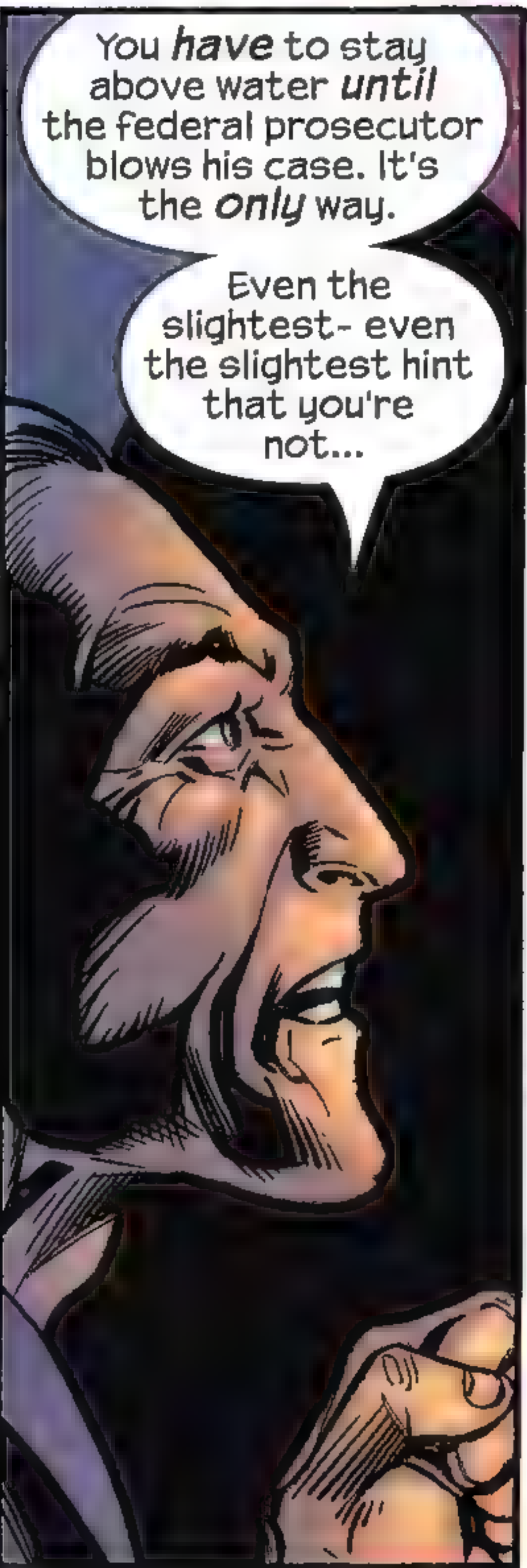
Oh no.
No.
Sir,
I- no.
I can't
let you do
that.
The spotlight
is too bright. You
can't. Not now.



You
know I'm
right.
I know
you know I'm
right.



They've
been waiting
for this.



You *have* to stay
above water *until*
the federal prosecutor
blows his case. It's
the *only* way.
Even the
slightest- even
the slightest hint
that you're
not...



Get me
Elektra.
They
need to
know--



Know
what?



To be
afraid of
me.

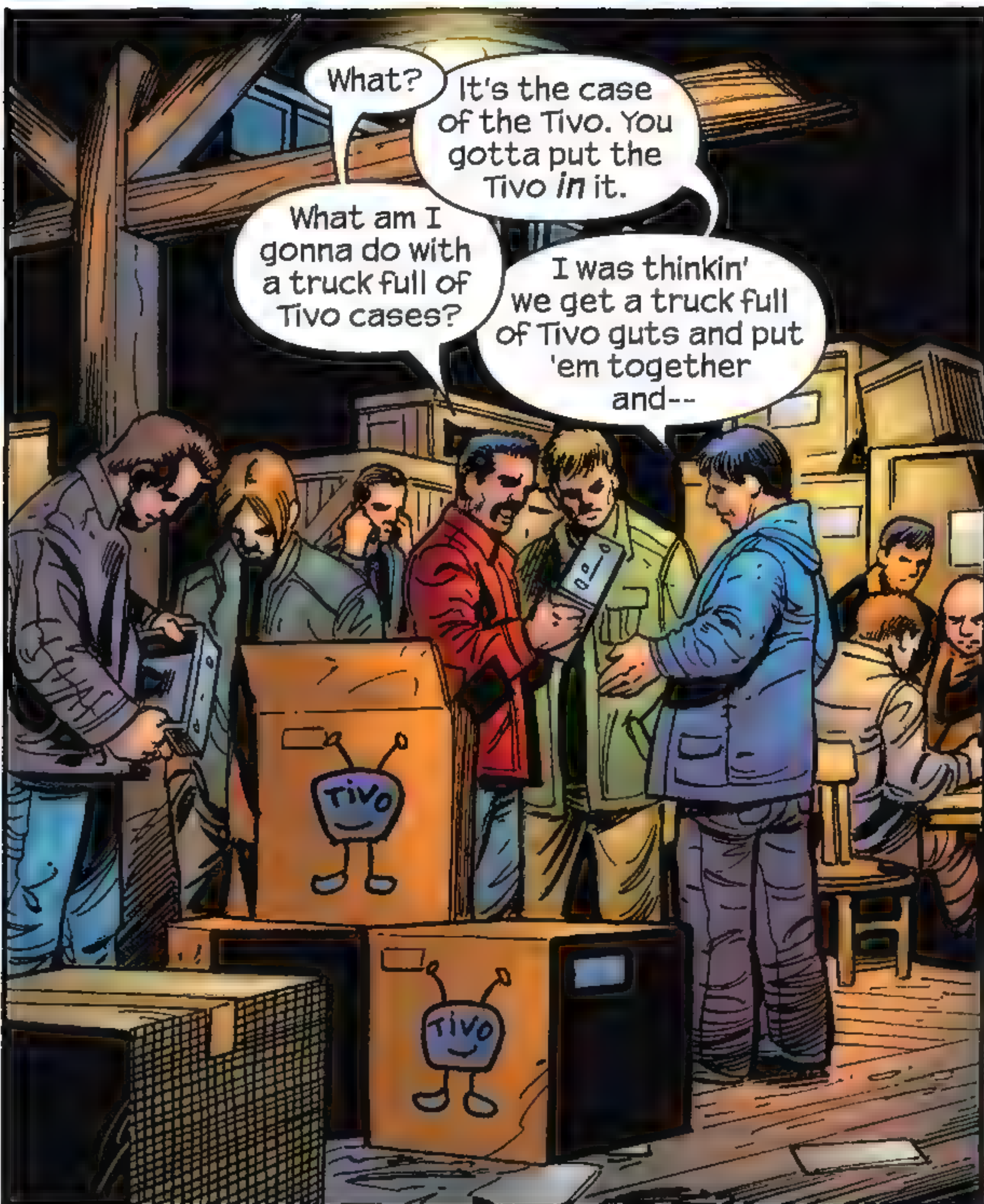


What is this?

Tivos.

It's empty.

It's the case.



What?

It's the case of the Tivo. You gotta put the Tivo *in* it.

What am I gonna do with a truck full of Tivo cases?

I was thinkin' we get a truck full of Tivo guts and put 'em together and--



Where'm I gonna get- get the \$%#@ out of here with this!

No, I mean, we get the Tivo and put them in and we sell--

Get the- what am I? Radio Shack?



Times are tough.

Holy....!!



Guys trying to make a living.

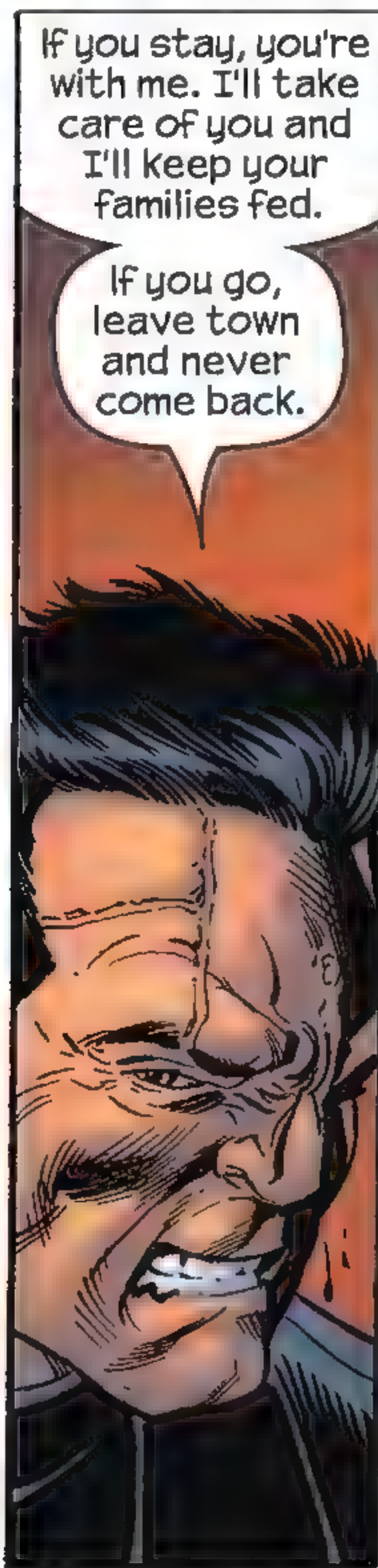
Fisk cut you guys off at the knees.

I get it.

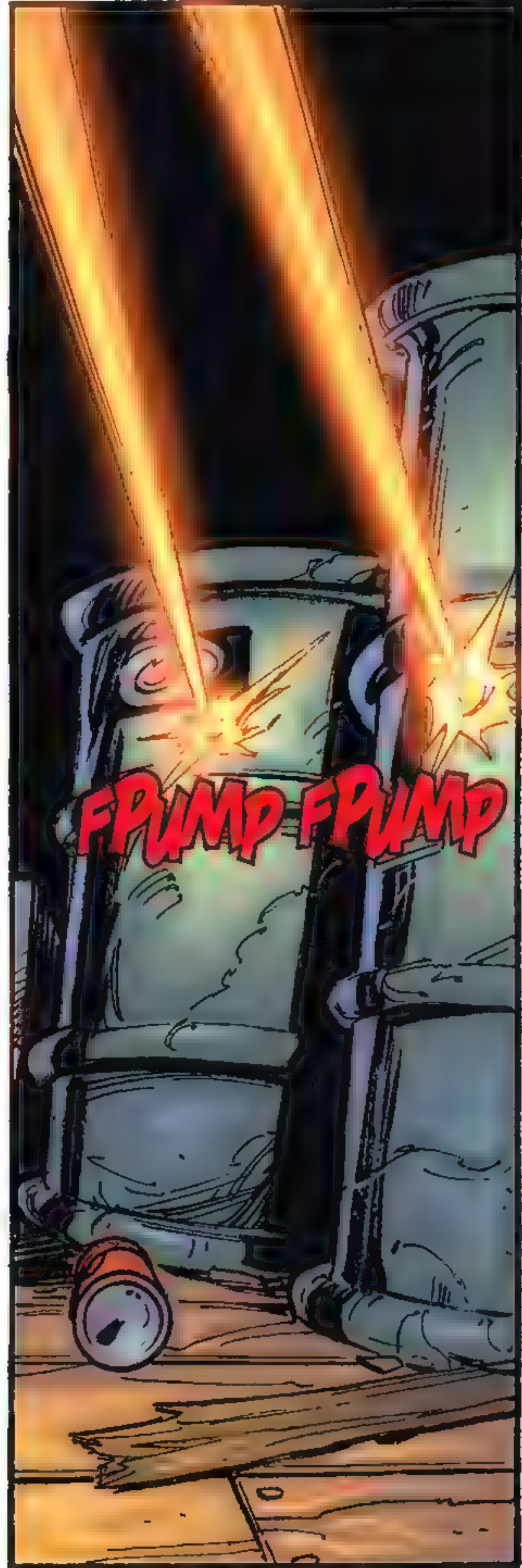
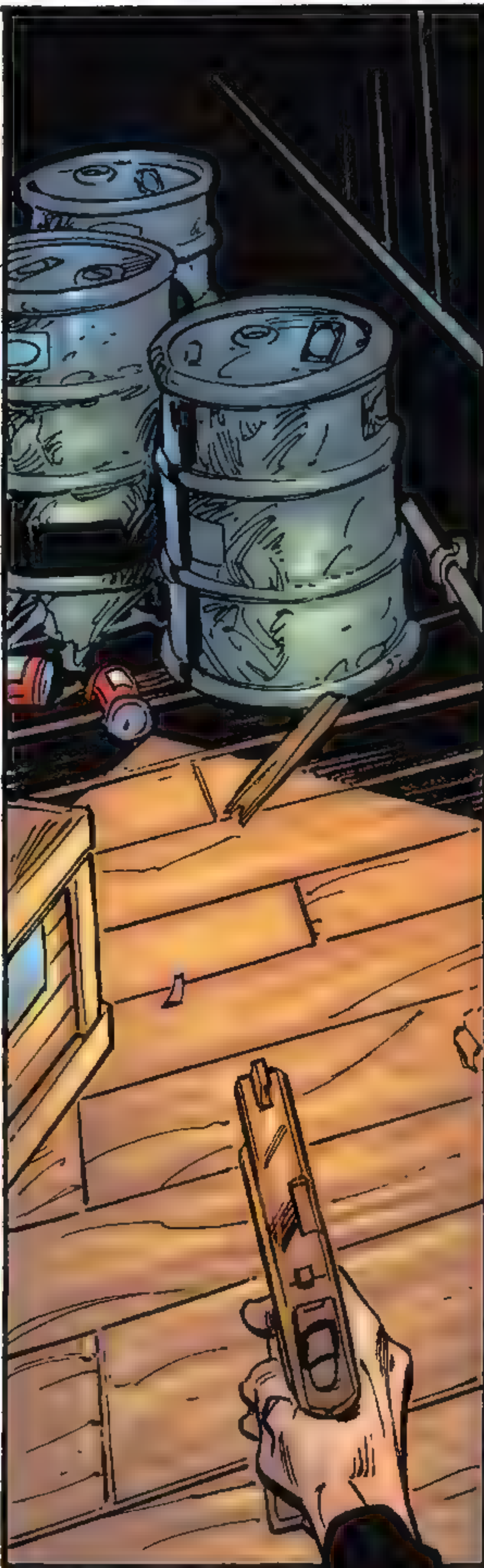
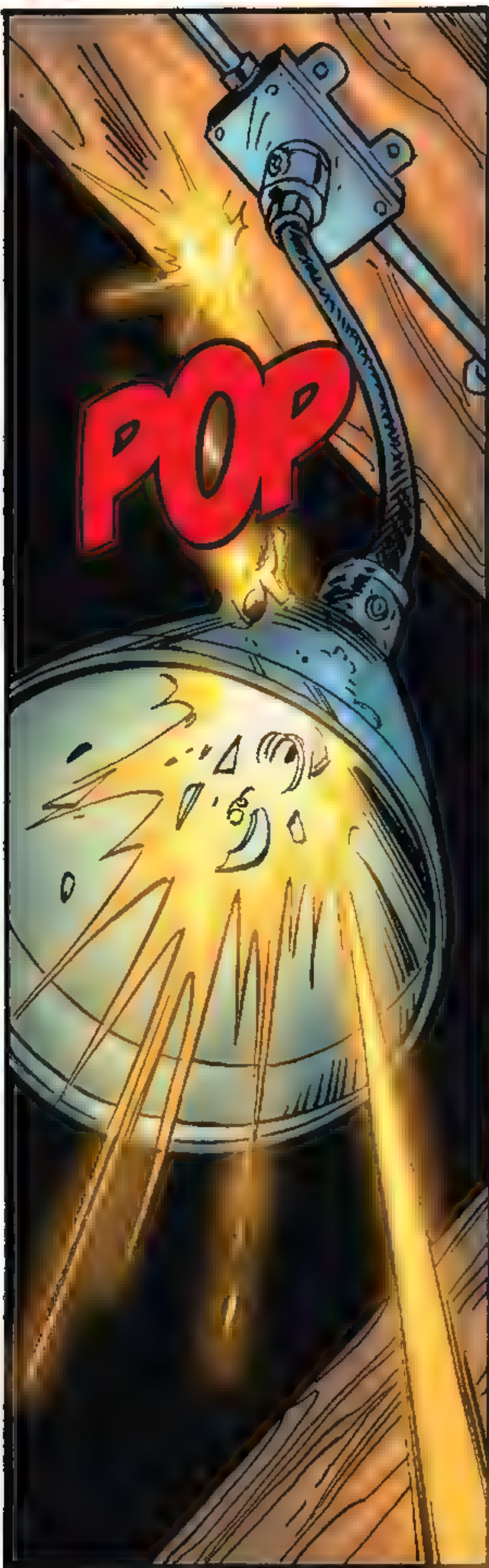
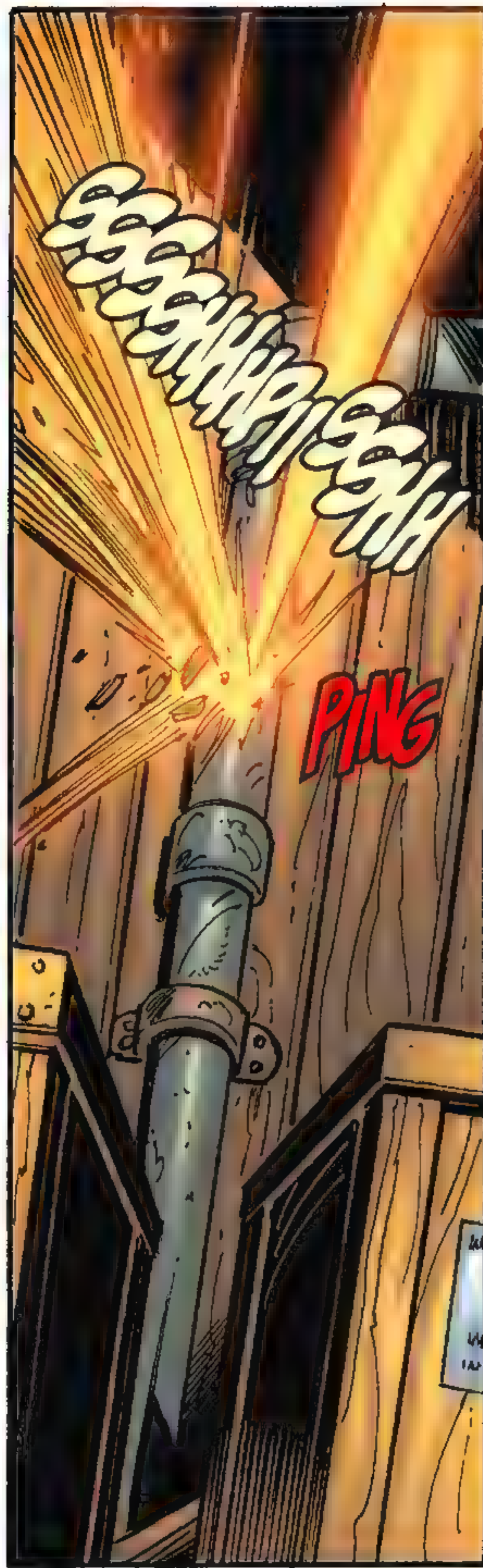
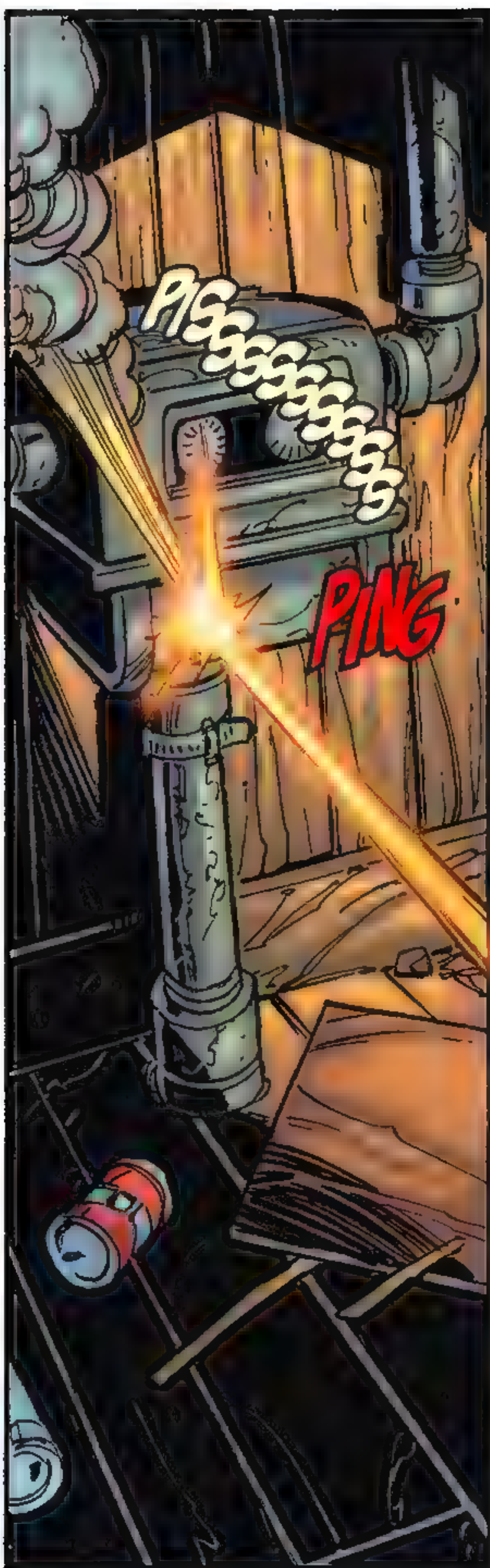
Believe me, I get it.













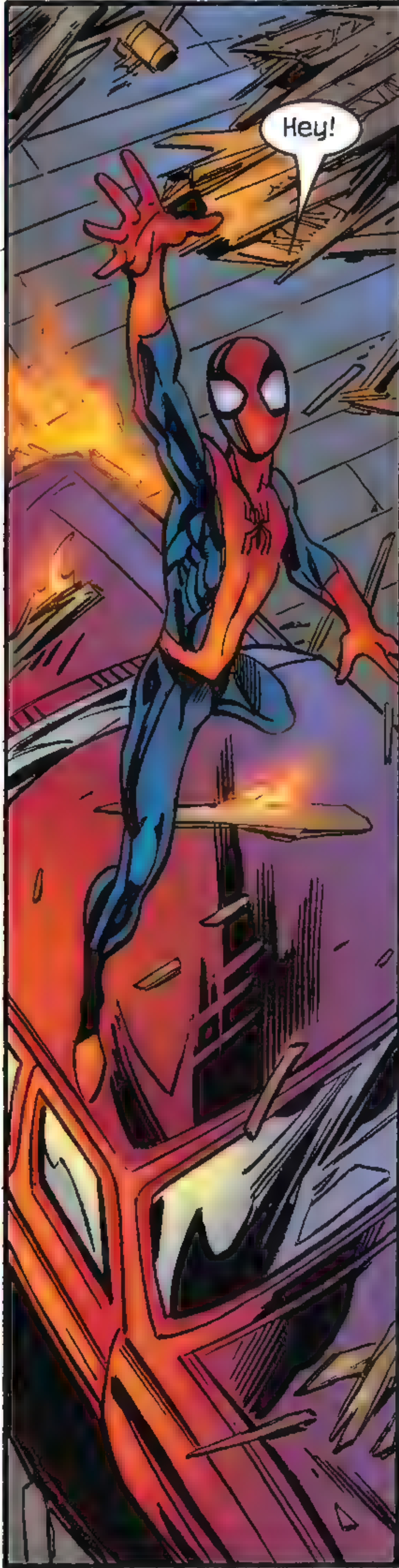


Yikes!

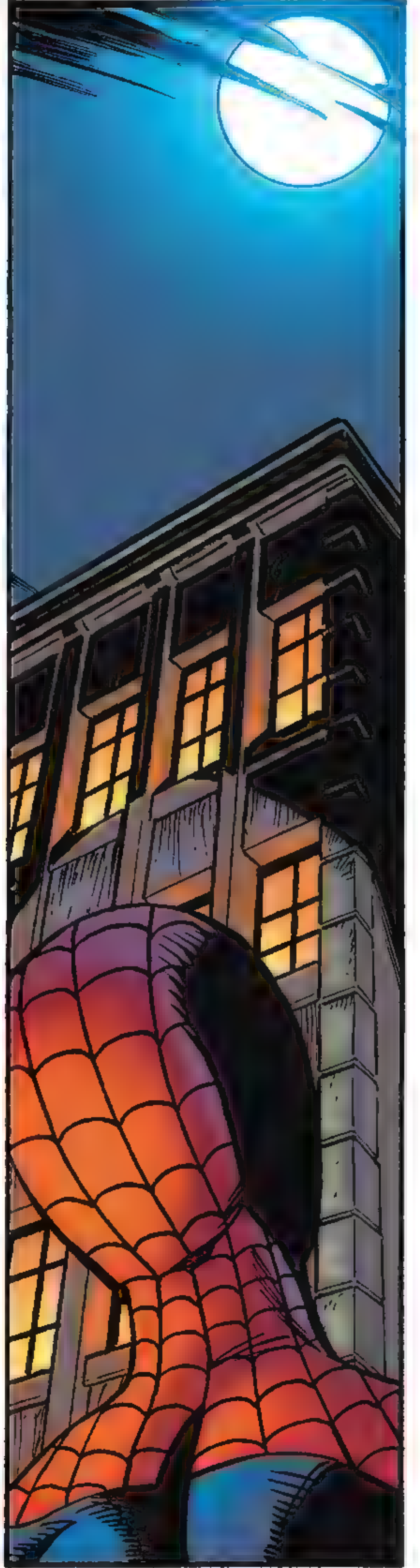


Hello? Is anyone trapped in there??

Hello??

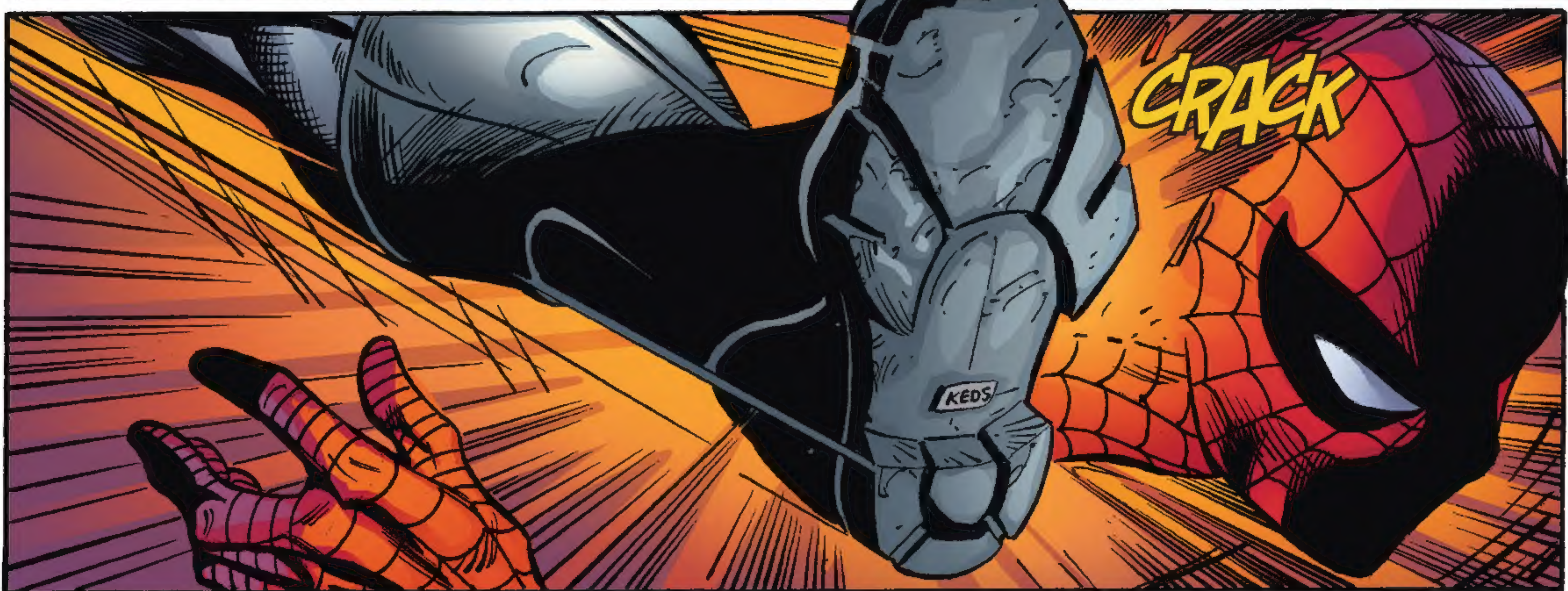
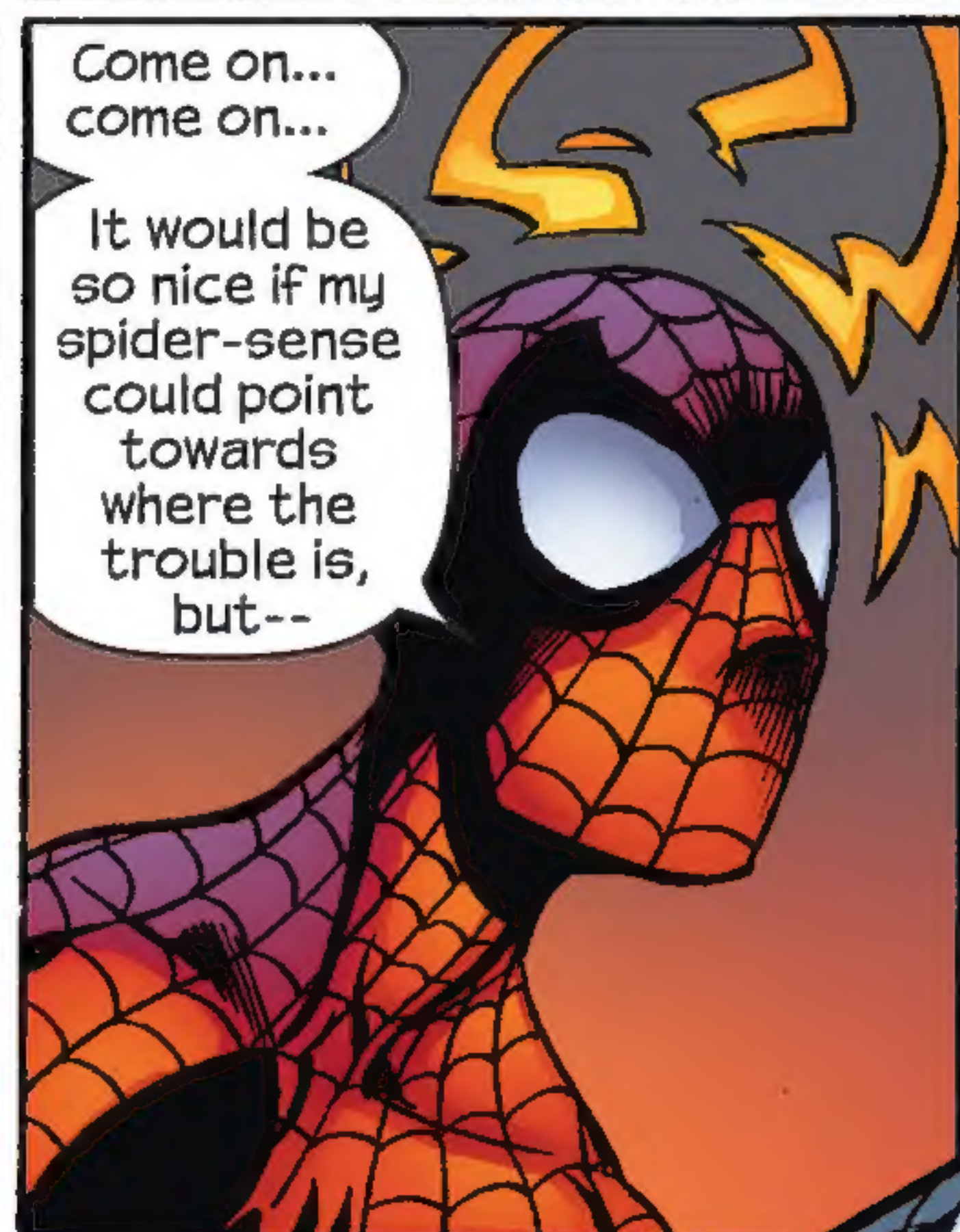
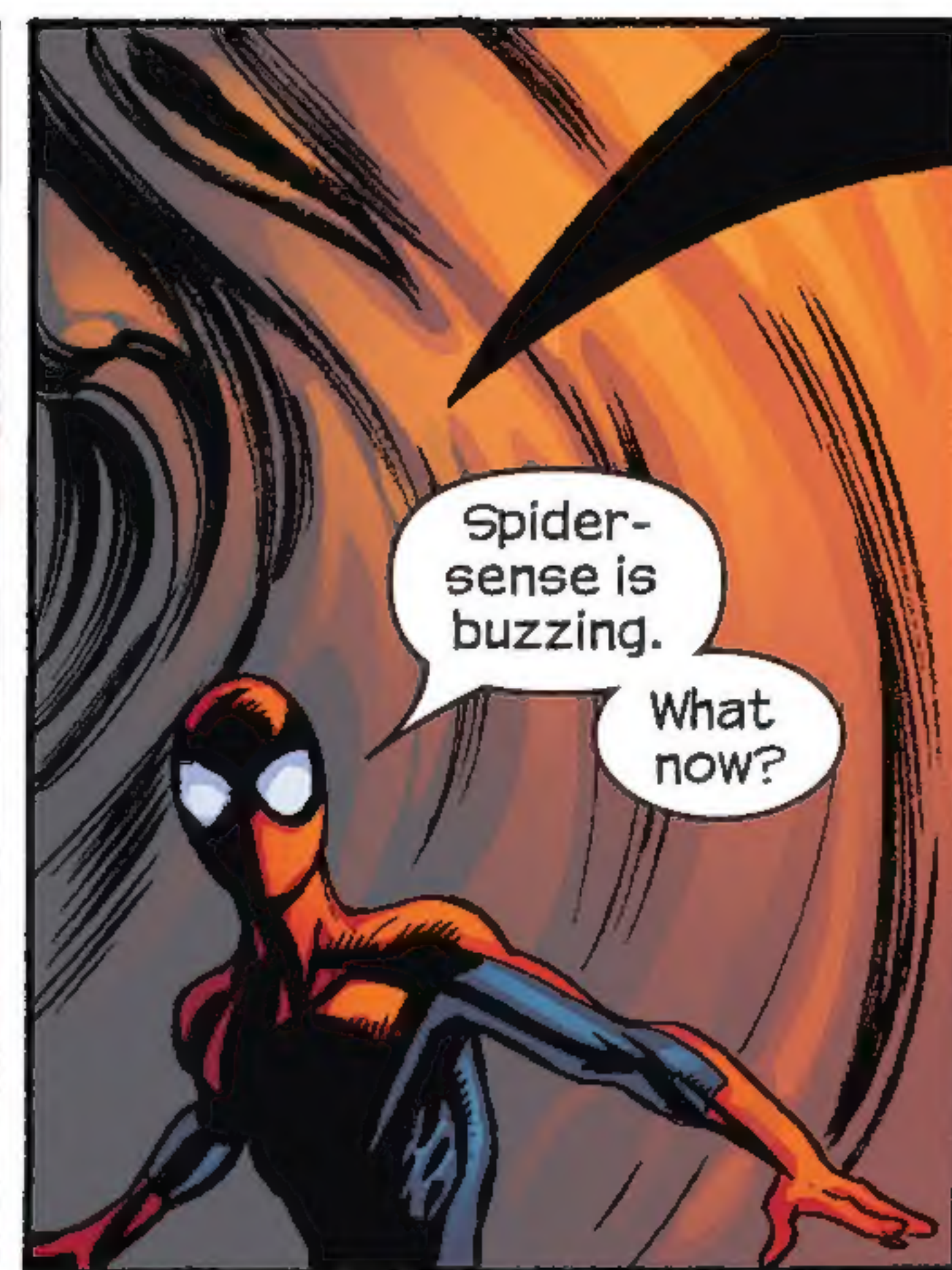
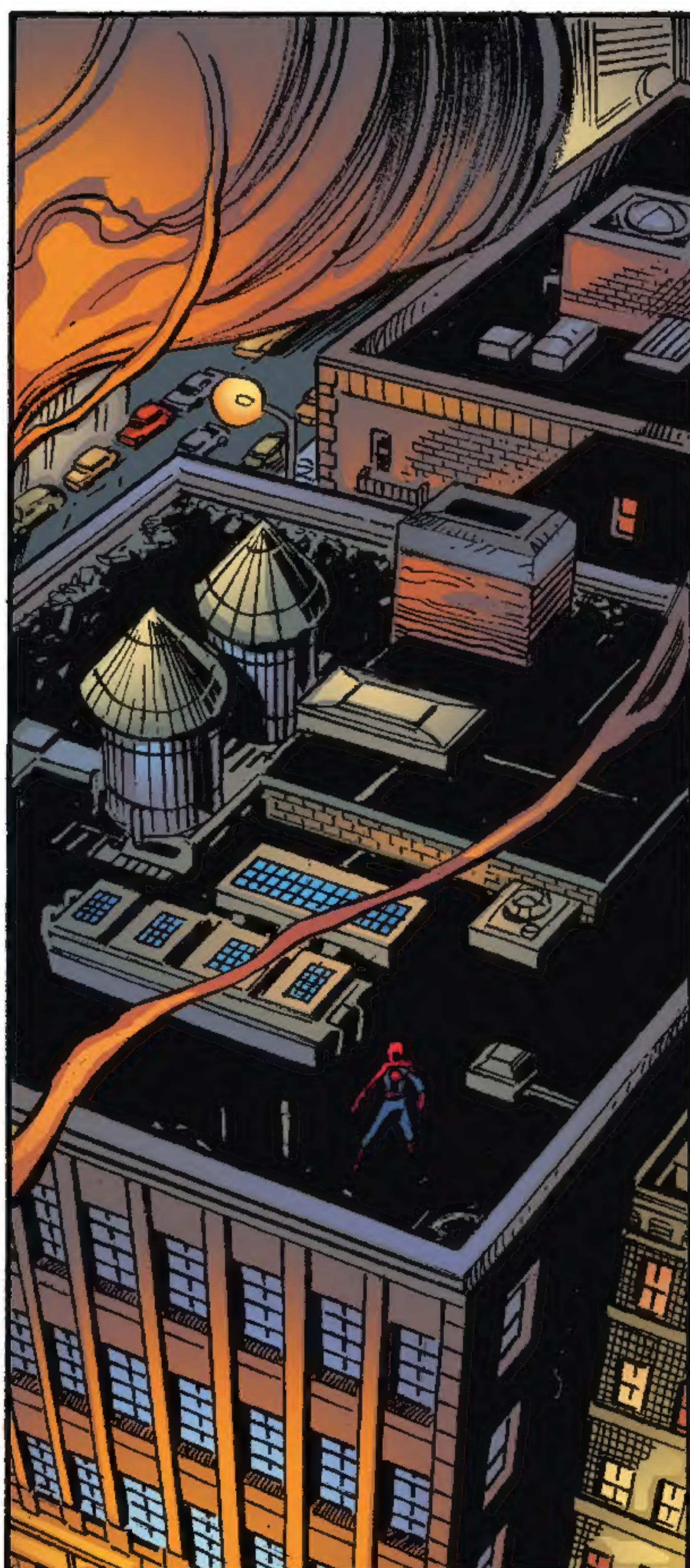


Hey!



Oyoyoy!

(It's my fault for coming here.)





WHAM

Now tell
me what you've
done here!!

Or the last thing
you'll feel on this earth
is the Moon Knight
cutting your throat
out.

AGH!

To be
continued...

ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN

Welcome back to the Ultimate Spider-Man letters column! It was a pleasure to meet everybody that made it out for Wizard World Philadelphia (which just ended as I type these lines) and I hope everybody *else* gets a chance to stop by Comic-Con International: San Diego on July 14-17 (in my old home town; check out comic-con.org for more info) or the Wizard World Chicago on August 4-7 (in my even *older* home town; wizarduniverse.com for info). If you make it to Chicago, you'll get a chance to pick up an exclusive sketch-cover variant of this very comic!

But on to your letters (remember, that's ultimateoffice@marvel.com, and mark your letters "Okay to print"!)

Hi, dear Ultimate Editors,

I'd like to give a bit of fan feedback, if I may.

Ultimate Spider-Man is okay, right now. I didn't like most of the stuff since issue 50, but the "Hobgoblin" arc turned out to be fine. I think Mr. Bendis lost it the moment he lost focus of Peter Parker and his life.

I don't know about other readers, but I care more about MJ and Gwen ("cared") and Kong and May than I do about Dr. Octopus or any super-fight.

I personally regard the death of Gwen Stacy as a pretty stupid move, because Bendis killed off the most interesting character in the whole series, the one I always came back to read more about, and he hasn't really made any progress towards establishing any other characters with a similar depth or enjoyability.

But please, please, don't bring her back.

Death really has to be final in the Ultimate Universe, if it's supposed to keep its integrity!

Patrick Mueller
Via e-mail

Thanks for your thoughts, Patrick! Glad you liked "Hobgoblin," and sorry you think Brian's lost focus on Peter's life. Hopefully this issue might change your mind a little—as you saw, Peter himself is losing focus on his life, and retreating into his Spider-Man persona. He's finding himself more and more at ease as a super hero, and less as a teenager...and that can't end well.

It's safe to say the death of Gwen Stacy was one of the most controversial events in this book. I'll tell you that, personally, after I read the script for the issue of "Carnage" where she died, I was in a state of shock the whole day.

The thing that made her death so affecting was how well-developed a character she was, and how much potential she had for the future. That's what makes death tragic in real life. Gwen wasn't a character that we'd run out of stories about, or that we just didn't want to use. She was a hugely important part of Peter's life, and he hasn't been the same since she died—and he never will be.

Gents,

Just picked up *Ultimate Spider-Man* #68 & 69. I'm not a big Spidey fan, but the Ultimate Fantastic Four were there, and that's enough for me! Interestingly enough though, something non-UFF-related made my jaw drop.

The sign that read: "Tandy Bowen for school president." Holy geez!

I was wondering if you guys could tell me if she's already appeared yet, and in what issue? I promise to buy it!

(Side Note: I just bought the first appearance of Cloak & Dagger, as well as almost all their old issues.)

The story itself was pretty good (although having a fire conveniently start while Pete and Johnny were talking was kinda cheap). I'm liking the fact that Johnny respects Spidey. In the regular Marvel U, the FF are sort of treated like royalty; but here in the Ultimate U, Spidey is a veteran, while the FF are just starting out!

I'm not a huge Bagley fan, but the splash with Johnny shooting the flames out into space was awesome. Excellent covers with Isanove as well.

(Side Note #2: I just bought *Ultimate Marvel Team-Up*. I know it's not continuity and all that...but I just had to get it!)

Looking forward to everything you've got cooked up for UFF! Excited about all the Annuals as well.

Take care, guys!

Butch Mapa
Philippines

Glad you made it over to *this* Ultimate title, Butch! Great to gain a new reader (even for a couple of issues from 2004)! And if you don't remember the issues Butch is talking about, check out *Ultimate Spider-Man Vol. 12: Superstars* for that tale, as well as a crossover with *Ultimate X-Men* and an appearance by Doctor Strange!

Tandy Bowen hasn't appeared in person yet, but Brian and Mark have been dropping hints like the sign you mention—see page 9 for its dramatic reappearance—and some graffiti last issue. As other readers may not be aware (but may have pieced together from Butch's email), in the regular Marvel Universe, Tandy is the alter-ego of Dagger, from the crime-fighting duo Cloak & Dagger (and you can see them in upcoming issues of *Runaways*, written by none other than *Ult-X's* Brian K. Vaughan—who says this isn't the Marvel Age of keeping it in the family?). It remains to be seen what Ultimate Tandy will be all about...

Glad you mentioned the Ultimate Annuals—I'll have more information about them, next issue!

As for *Ultimate Marvel Team-Up* (available in 3 nice paperbacks and one *really* nice hardcover, if you can find it): probably 95% of the series is totally in Ultimate continuity. And this series features the first Ultimate appearances of a *lot* of the

Ultimates team, as well as Dr. Strange, the Punisher, Daredevil...and a certain Master of Kung Fu who just might be showing up in these very pages in...oh, I don't know...five weeks or so...?

But before then:



NEXT: Join us in two short weeks for *Ultimate Spider-Man* #80 as "Warriors" heats up. Who's Moon Knight? Will he prove to be friend or foe? Is *anybody* on Peter's side anymore? Part 2 of 7 action-packed issues, as we hit 80 consecutive issues by Brian Michael Bendis and Mark Bagley!

Also be sure to check out the *rest* of Ultimate Starts Month—the perfect jumping-on point for every Ultimate series! In *Ultimate Fantastic Four* #21, Mark Millar and Greg Land begin their run on the title with the story everybody will be talking about: "Crossover"!

Over in *Ultimate X-Men* #61, meet Emma Frost's new band of students—as they (and Brian K. Vaughan and Stuart Immonen) lead the X-Men to: "Magnetic North"!

And finally, don't forget everybody's favorite *Ultimates 2* #7, as Mark Millar and Bryan Hitch open up their concluding arc, "Grand Theft America". Learn more about the team's traitor—you won't *believe* what happens here.

See you all next issue!

John

JOHN BARBER & NICOLE WILEY
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